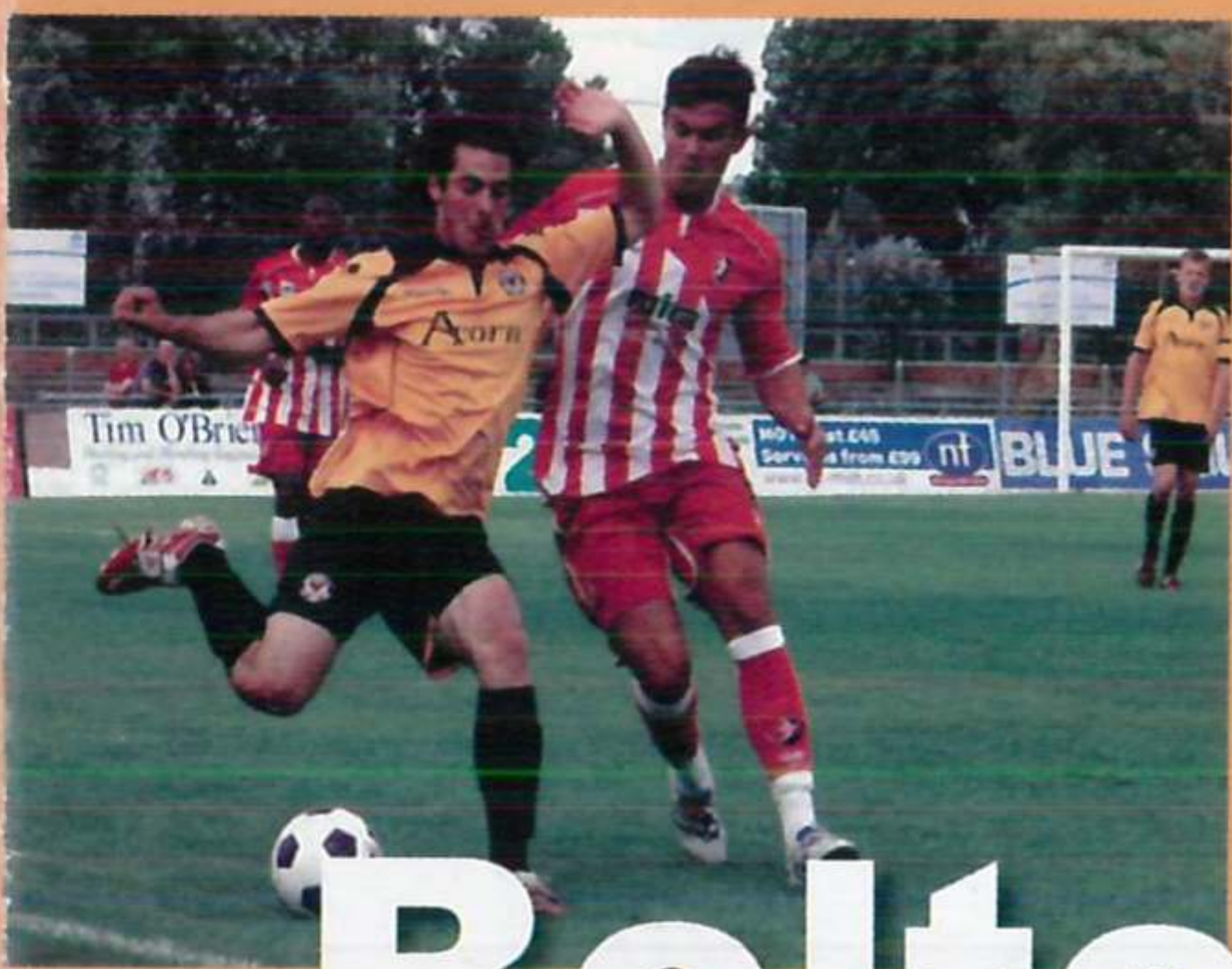


County

Official 2011-12 programme



Bolton Wanderers

Acorn

Friendly

3.00pm KO

Saturday 30th July 2011

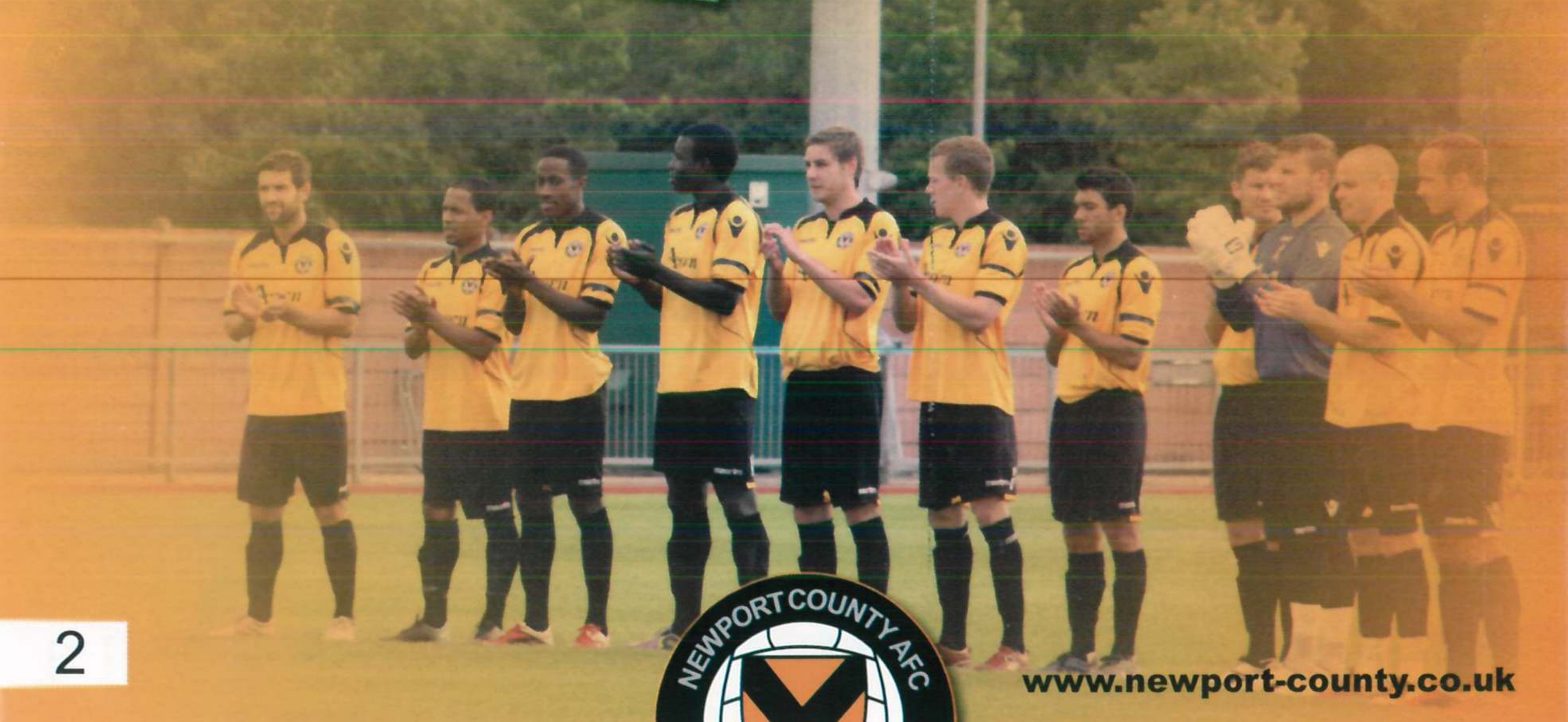


£2



The Amber Album

Newport County AFC 1 - 0 Cheltenham Town



FROM THE MANAGER... Anthony Hudson

Please join me in welcoming Owen Coyle, his staff and players to Newport today.

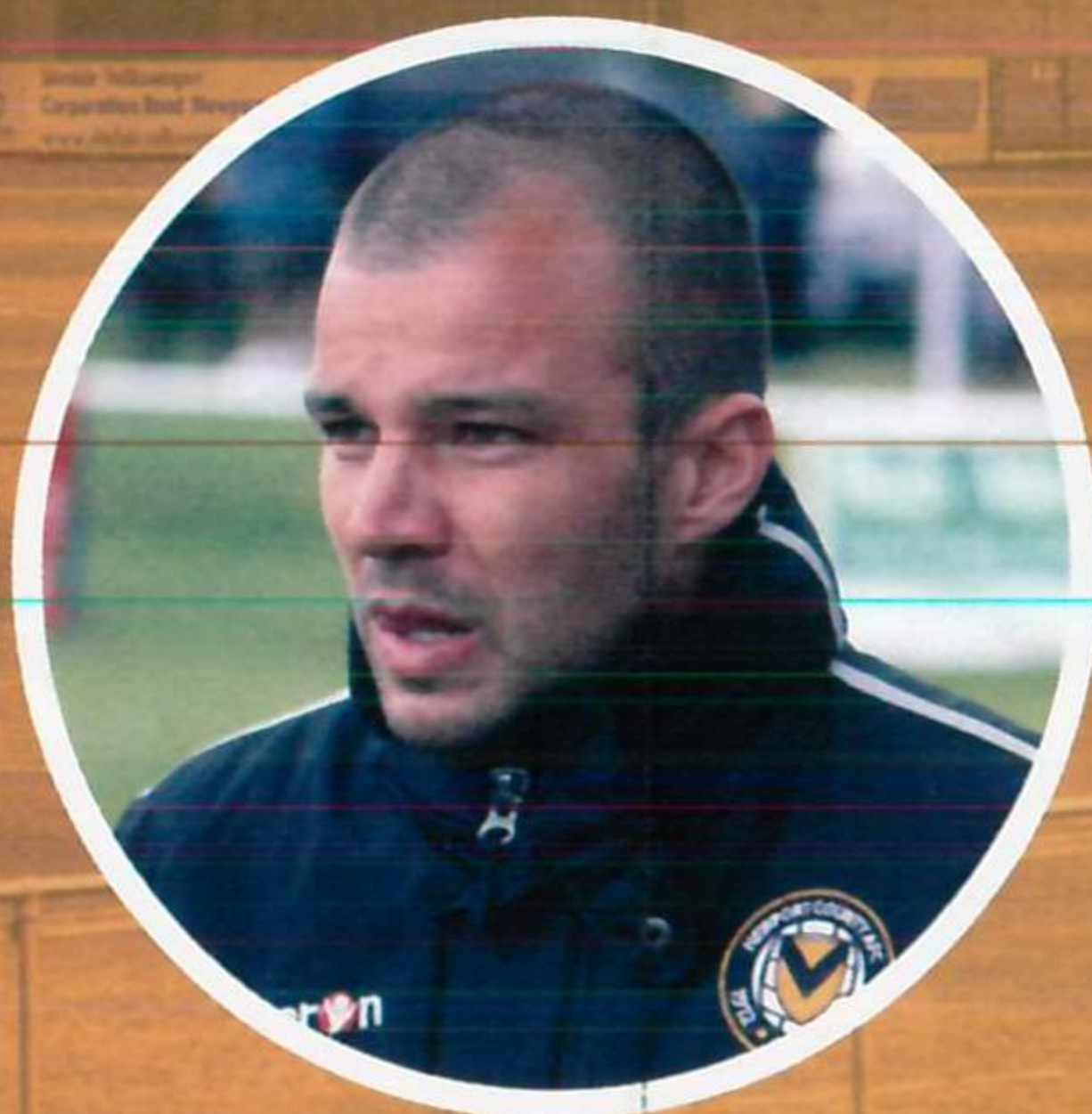
Today is another fantastic test for us against one of the top teams in the country. Since Owen has taken over at the club, they have become a very strong Premier League outfit, playing some fantastic football and also being extremely hard to beat.

Last week's test against Cheltenham was a good one, but I've said it along these pre-season games can be deceiving. With all due respect to Cheltenham, once the Conference Premier League starts we'll find some much tougher and harder opponents - purely because there's three points on the table!

But take nothing away from our players, they've put in some strong performances and have been working very hard. However, we're only scratching the surface and there's a lot of work to be done. Recruitment is vital right now, and so is our preparation. We're a way off where we need to be, but we're also well on course.

I'm sure today will be an enjoyable and positive game for all involved and we can sign off our home pre-season game with a strong performance!

The manager



NEWPORT COUNTY AFC,
Newport Stadium,
Stadium Way,
International Sports Village,
Newport NP19 4PT
01633 66 22 62

Ticketline: 01633 293 153,
Club shop: 01633 293 155
Match on/off hotline: 01633 674011
Fax: 01633 666107

General office hours: 10.00-2.30 Mon-Fri
Phil Morgan, Phil Burgess, Rob Evans

CLUB OFFICIALS

Honorary President: David Hando
Directors: Chris Blight (Chairman)
Howard Greenhaf
Nick McDonald
John Bowkett

Company Secretary: John Allison
Financial Director: John Percival
Football Secretary: Mike Everett

General Manager and Matchday Manager:
Phil Morgan

Director of Football: Tim Harris

Manager: Anthony Hudson
Assistant Managers: Lee Harrison
Player-Coach: Wayne Hatswell

Physiotherapist: Wayne Jones
Kit Manager: Tony Gilbert
Chief Scout: Nick Cornwell

Head of Senior Academy: Glyn Jones
Head of Junior Academy: Kevin Cooper

Announcers: Phil Morgan, Tim Thraves
Photos: Sam Shingler, Ashley Crowden,
Ryan Hiscott
Video: Glyn Neale, Steve Horton
Programme design: Darren Williams
Editorial: Phil Tanner

Club shop: Colette Phillips, Mick White,
Roger Hiscott, Kath Hiscott

Programme shop: Duncan Jardine

Radio commentary: Tim Thraves

Club Chaplain: Rev Keith Beardmore



COMMERCIAL SCENE

with Alan Coombs

Today's match Sponsor

For our second friendly game of the new season which is against Bolton Wanderers, we would like to welcome the Celtic Manor Resort as our match sponsor.

Newport County AFC would like to thank the Celtic Manor Resort for their support and hope that all the guests attending the match today will have an enjoyable afternoon.



The **Celtic Manor Resort** is a well known hotel and leisure resort in Newport. It consists of the luxurious 5 star hotel shown below, the historic 19th century Manor hotel, a country inn, a multi-purpose conference centre and the finest golf courses and facilities in the UK. These include The Twenty Ten, the Roman Road and The Montgomerie Courses. As you all know, the Twenty Ten course was the venue for the 2010 Ryder Cup, the first to be held in Wales.



Summer Adventure at Celtic Manor

Adventure is the name of the game at The Celtic Manor Resort this summer, where families and children of all ages can enjoy an action-packed schedule of activities throughout the school holidays.

Make the most of the sunshine and get out and about in the great outdoors to try something new. Take on the challenge of two spectacular **Adventure Golf** courses, where you can experience some of the most famous holes in golf including St Andrews, Pebble Beach and Augusta, or enter the dragon's lair, escape through the thatched hut and float across the lake on a Celtic-inspired raft!

Always wanted to swing through the trees? Then why not test your nerve with Celtic Manor's exhilarating new **Forest Jump** treetop adventure. Located in woodland on the Resort's grounds, this exciting activity features both high and low rope courses, bridges, walkways and challenging obstacles made from wood, rope and wire in the treetops. And if that's not enough to

get your heart racing, take the freefall adventure of your life with the "Power Fan" jump!

Families can also learn new skills with fantastic **Wilderness Bushcraft Challenges** and **Falconry Displays**, while children of all ages are invited to enjoy a busy schedule of daily fun including sports coaching, pamper parties and outdoor pursuits, or join Flora, Jac and Cosmo, Celtic Manor's new **Resort Rangers**, for some action-packed adventure.

For more details visit celtic-manor.com, or call 01633 410587

Today's Match Ball Sponsor

**P.B.H.CLEANING
SERVICES LTD**

Newport County AFC would like to welcome back Paul Hughes and PBH Cleaning Services Ltd. as match ball sponsor for this afternoon's game.

This is their second "appearance" this season as they were kind enough to sponsor the ball for our friendly with Stoke City. We would like to thank them for their support and hope they enjoy their afternoon at the stadium.

PBH Cleaning is a family-run firm with over 18 years

experience in contract cleaning covering the South Wales area. "We have only trusted and experienced staff at our disposal and take pride in our excellent customer retention rate due to our unparalleled service and excellent results".

PBH covers all areas and aspects of cleaning such as office cleaning, graffiti removal, void cleans, floor maintenance, bin area cleans, domestic cleaning, kitchen deep cleans, end of tenancy cleans, carpet cleaning and much more.

"Our company is growing and continuing to perform

to the highest standard providing our customers with reassurance, professionalism and expertise when they need it most".

"Therefore if you need it cleaned call us - we'll be happy to help".

Tel. no. 07988071248 - E-mail phughes106@aol.com



A Tribute to **COLIN ROUTLEY**

Colin's funeral was to be held on Wednesday this week, after our publishing deadline. The programme team send our condolences and we trust his family will have taken comfort from support offered there and through other avenues. Many supporters who knew Colin have posted their tributes on the supporters' unofficial internet message board and on Facebook, and this is just a selection:

"We were deeply sorry to learn of the sudden, untimely death of Colin Routley. Colin was one of our staunchest supporters who attended most of our games, often with his eldest daughter, Karen. He was a mate of the Royal Mail and Crosskeys fans and often travelled on the Royal Mail coach. Colin was the new club's first commercial manager, following our return from Moreton in Marsh to Somerton Park and built up a network of commercial support. He also led a group of volunteers who looked after the ground and were known as 'the botchit boys'. Colin will be sadly missed." *Club President David Hando, via County eNews*

"I still can't believe it. We celebrated County's draw against Stoke with a few pints in the Carpenters Arms Saturday evening, and then the terrible news Sunday evening. Colin was a gentleman, a true County fan, and thought the world of his family. Will be sadly missed by all his friends..." *John Williams*

"Colin was an unbelievable County supporter, even before he was made commercial manager he was always over the ground every day doing what he could. He always had time for a chat and was just the kind of guy you wanted around..." *Mark Henson*

"Colin worked so hard for this club in those early days when we were all just flying by the seat of our pants. One of the good guys." *Anon*

"Never forget the help he was at Sam's first birthday party in 1991 at The Moreton Lounge at Somerton Park, Colin was the Commercial Manager at the time and that day it snowed really heavy, but Colin never let us down and had the room open and heated for us. You don't forget things like that." *Chris Shingler*

"RIP Colin. One of life's good guys." *Rob Santwris*

"RIP Colin a top man, had some great times with him he will be sorely missed... will have a pint for you in Kettering and no doubt many other places too!!!" *Cully*

"... A gentleman and lifelong County fan... There will always be a glass raised for you Col in the Mail, rest easy mate." *Billy Ingles*

"He was a true friend and we all called him nice Colin because he was such a nice person and a gentleman..." *Jason, Jeanette and all at the Crosskeys*

"Colin was responsible for getting me a few trial run-outs on Somerton Park many years ago and got me to 'live the dream' I will forever be in his debt for that (and I told him so on many occasions !!)... Will never be forgotten in Countyland" *Simon*

"On behalf of all from Courtybella who had the pleasure of doing the Gateshead trip with Colin. Tremendous bloke..." *Stu Strange*

"We shared many a train journey with Colin, following his beloved County. Couldn't wish to meet a nicer man and a true fan. Weekend in Gateshead

was made even better in Colin's company." *Ken and Thomas*

"Deepest sympathy to all his family. I knew Colin from school days as we both attended Brynglas Primary in the fifties." *"plodalongcassidy"*

"Can't believe I won't see him wearing that black Harrington all through the winter again. All the best Col." *Dave Smale*

"ONE OF LIFE'S GOOD GUYS"

"Deep condolences from the class of '62 at Newport High School. This is hard to believe, and much too soon... Especial memories from Paul Green, John Hinton and Dave Thomas."

"The 08.39 just won't be the same without you! Sincerest condolences to Karen, Mark and Beth." *Dave Butcher*

"Colin told me at the curry night last week that his County game count was well into the thousands and it sounds like everyone he met over those years formed the same opinion - a really friendly, warm and genuine guy." *Nick McDonald*

"I didn't know Colin personally although like many I knew the face at our games. Anyone connected with the formation and running of the 'new' Newport County is held in my highest esteem and therefore will be missed greatly. Condolences to the family and hope you take some pleasure from reading all the great comments." *Neil W.*

"As everyone else has said he always had time for a chat, which was always an entertaining experience (!), and County through and through. Sincere condolences..." *Steve Horton*



AMBER ARCHIVE

with Ade Williams

Football can be incredibly weird sometimes; we had never met Bolton Wanderers competitively in nigh on seven decades of our being until the 1980s. Then, just like buses, the fixtures with the Trotters came thick and fast. For County fans reared on a diet of lower division grounds and exotic destinations like Darlington, Doncaster and Scunthorpe, a trip to the famous Burnden Park was a huge treat. It felt like we were rubbing shoulders with football immortality.

Sadly Burnden Park is no more; gone is its unique character and presence, just like so many famous footballing venues akin to it. I will always remember my first visit there during that 1980s era however; to me it was equally as thrilling as visiting Old Trafford or Highbury. That wonderful old ground by then was horribly run down, decrepit and a pale shadow of its former self. To this supporter, though, it felt truly epic; it was drenched in fabulous memories that hauntingly echoed to the ghosts of yesteryear. To see my

clubs were struggling at the time and indeed both would ultimately be relegated to the Football League's basement that season. This, though, was a rare highlight in an otherwise forgettable campaign. As the hardy handful of Newport disciples took their places in the away end, with the vociferous home support situated immediately adjacent to them, I recall staring at my surroundings in awe as I thought about the legendary Nat Lofthouse, along with the likes of Neil Whatmore and Brian Kidd from my own childhood when the Trotters were top flight material. This was a "proper" football ground, I thought.

As Jimmy Mullen's County jogged out of the tunnel opposite,

neither I nor my fellow supporters gave the team much hope of actually gaining anything positive that afternoon. We had, after all, been resoundingly thrashed here only months previously when a young Stuart Ripley inspired Wanderers to a 4-0 success that still made us wince. Already boasting a somewhat sparse

playing squad, County were without top scorer Roy Carter; with rookie boss Mullen forced to hand a league debut to 18-year-old striker Glynne Millett. Phil

start than our last visit, when the Trotters had scored after only 14 seconds! Newport struck back and Linden Jones fired over from range, before Mardenborough tested Salmon with another teasing effort from distance.

Thompson spurned a glorious chance on 24 minutes; George Oghani sent tricky winger Mark Gavin away down the left and Thompson could only divert his perfect cross over Kendall's bar. Seconds later, another Thompson snap-shot was gathered by Kendall shortly before County survived a nervous penalty appeal when Joyce looked to have been hauled down unceremoniously by Peter Jones. As the interval loomed, both Oghani and Phillips should have put Bolton in front instead of wasting great chances. It was a surprise, and indeed a relief, to still be on level pegging at this stage.

Bolton began the second period more slowly and the increasingly confident Ironsides took full advantage. A Staniforth cross caused a moment of panic with Vinter unable to supply the finishing touch. Mardenborough created further worry when his run and cross once again only just failed to find the lurking Vinter. It mattered not, on 58 minutes County took the lead with a splendid goal on his league debut by youngster Glynne Millett. A Steve Berry through ball sent the waif-like teenager sprinting clear and he provided a finish that belied his tender years; driving the ball low and emphatically past Mike Salmon.

It stunned Bolton into action and for the next 20 or more minutes, they pounded the Newport goal scarcely unable to believe their wretched luck. Winger Mark Gavin came more and more into it and simply tore County apart down that left flank, seldom had I seen Linden Jones so utterly taken to the cleaners. That the Trotters failed to make any of his fantastic service count was shocking, truth be told; County were certainly riding their luck. Penalty appeals came and went for the home side; some pretty v a l i d, others just in sheer hopeful desperation, as struggling County held on for another famous win at what I could only perceive as the Mecca of Burnden.

Bolton Wanderers



OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE
SEASON 1985-87
60p VOUCHER 2

THE TODAY LEAGUE DIVISION THREE
SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER 1986
KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

NEWPORT COUNTY

THE MECCA OF BURNDEN

humble team actually win there was even better.

County had indeed triumphed in the very first contest between the clubs, back in October 1983. It was an afternoon that older County supporters still talk about as being "a bit special". Trailing 1-2 at the mighty Burnden with barely two minutes remaining, the Ironsides amazingly scored twice in what seemed only a matter of seconds to win the match. It was one of those games that make the hardcore supporter terrified of missing a single match; so scared that if he [or she] does, they might miss something truly memorable. Those that failed to travel to Bolton on that wet October Saturday certainly did.

My first visit was in November of 1986, a Division Three fixture on an afternoon when we had played the Bolton supporters beforehand on the sort of pitch that Ronnie Radford would have revelled in. Sadly, both

Neal's Bolton, unbeaten in games, had drawn away at high-flying Middlesbrough in midweek and must surely have felt confident of seeing off the struggling Welshmen.

County were immediately under the cosh as Wanderers attacked the end where an ugly supermarket had accounted for much of what was once a gloriously old fashioned and proud terrace. Former Scotland international Asa Hartford fired in a 20-yard effort that Mark Kendall was able to smother at the second attempt. Thompson was next to go close for the hosts, heading a good opportunity just wide. At least it had been a better

MILLETT ON TARGET IN AWAY WIN

by Robert Phillips

A GOAL by Glyn Millett, who was making his debut, earned Newport County a valuable 1-0 away win over Bolton this afternoon, but it was at a price, player manager Jimmy Mullen going off with concussion in the second half.

NEWPORT County lived a perfect dream as a league debut in which Thompson headed a superb cross over at the far post. Seconds later Millett, who played up front in place of top scorer Roy Carter, ruled out with a groin injury.

That was the only change as goalkeeper Mark Kendall (dub) and Roger Gibson (dub) recovered from injury to their games, rescued the side who drew at Mardenborough in midweek.

A little later they had Mardenborough to back off as cleared as Bolton tried to score put the ball harmlessly

Teams

Bolton Wanderers: M. Salmon, D. Jones, J. Phillips, M. Jones, J. Gibson, J. Barry, G. Oghani, R. Thompson, R. Staniforth, A. Mardenborough, M. Vinter, M. Jones, R. Jones, R. Jones.

Newport County: M. Kendall, J. Lewis, G. Oghani, R. Jones, R. Staniforth, R. Barry, R. Jones, R. Jones, R. Jones, R. Jones, R. Jones, R. Jones.



OFF THE WALL with Jeff Williams

If you look hard enough, you can generally find a connection between two ostensibly different places.

Let's take the example of Newport and Bolton. Two industrial towns, one now a city and the other hoping for similar status in 2012. One in the north of England, one in the south of Wales. One in a rugby league area, the other in a union stronghold, and a mere 139 miles apart. So it's not a good start.

Now consider their football clubs. Ours has a history of fortitude and perennial struggle; survival against sometimes suffocating hardship. Bolton, in comparison, have inhabited a league of princes for most of their history. They had one of the greatest centre forwards in the history of the game; the ferocious Lion of Vienna, the legendary Nat Lofthouse. Not just a hero, but a local lad, one of their own. They were founder members of the Football League and they've won the FA Cup four times. They virtually owned it in the 1920s when they won it three times. They had the distinction of appearing in the first Wembley Cup Final, when they beat West Ham in the famous "White Horse" final in 1923.



So the Wanderers have had some good times but the Gods of footballing fortune are fickle and Bolton's history has its flip side. They were frequent visitors to Somerton Park in the 1980s and in 1987 they plummeted into the old fourth division. Who would have thought, back then that a mere 16 years later they would sign a player from the mighty Real Madrid, even if it was Ivan Campo.

It's fairly obvious that, just like Newport County fans, the Bolton faithful have needed a huge sense of humour down the years. They even nicknamed their team

'The Trotters' because one of their earlier grounds was next to a pig farm and the match ball was frequently returned a slightly different shade of brown, when it went into touch!

Gallows humour, of course, is part of terrace culture and Bolton has a surfeit of deadpan comedians these days. Peter Kay and Paddy McGuinness would surely smile at the irony of supporting a team one of whose most famous performances came in a defeat, after leading 3-1, when their team was bedazzled by a 38-year-old with bandy legs, in one of the most famous FA Cup finals of all time, the "Matthews final" of 1953.

Now Newport may not have had as many footballing personalities as Bolton and maybe not as many comedians, at least not in recent years. The respective populations are almost identical. According to the 2001 census, Newport's is bigger by only 797, although it could be argued that Bolton is in the middle of Lancashire's football heartland and should, as a consequence, produce more footballing icons than an area in supposedly rugby-obsessed South Wales.

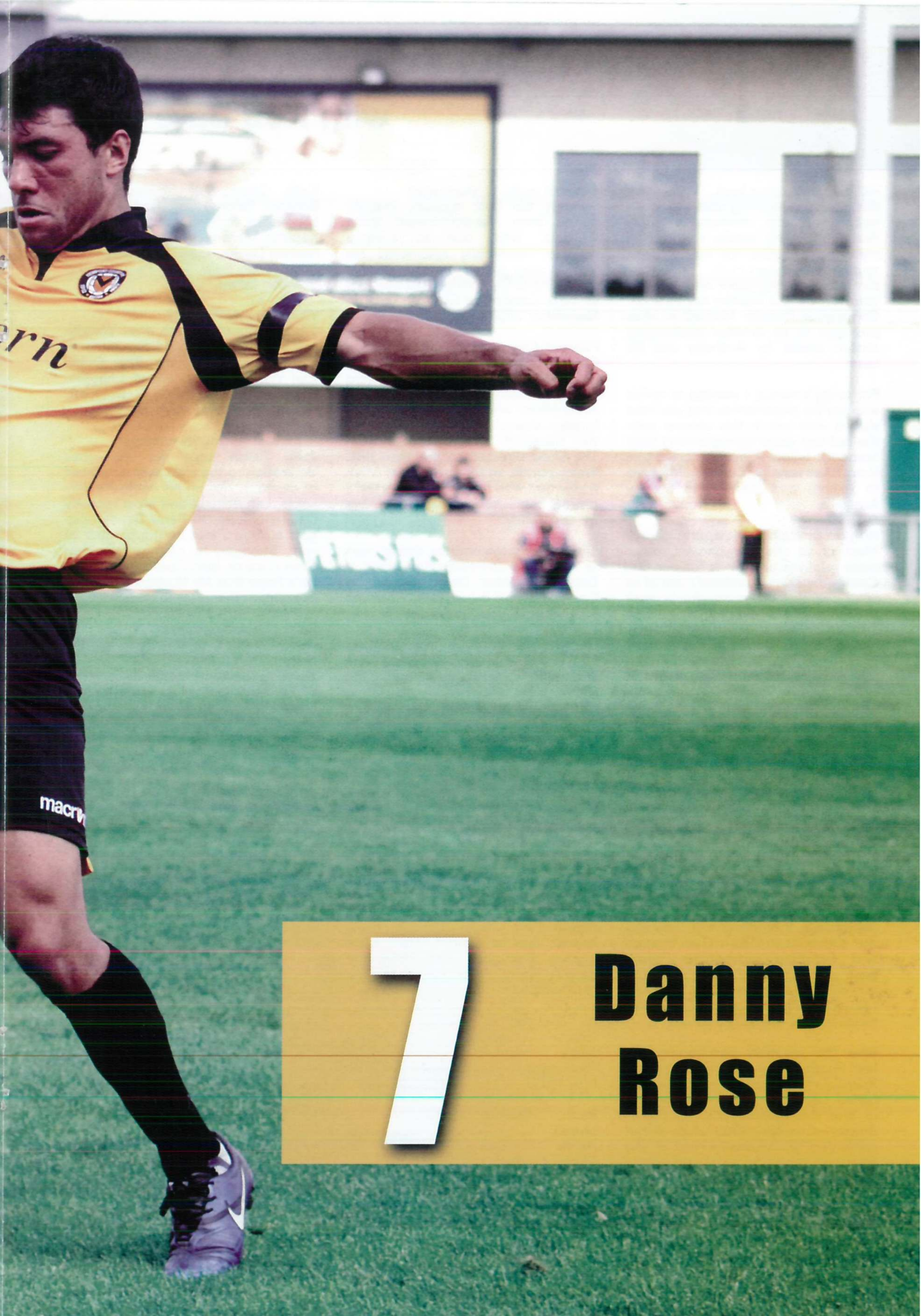


One of Newport's most unsung football heroes was a schoolteacher who was, if you like, the Pierluigi Collina of his day. In the 1950s, Mervyn Griffiths (far right above) - or B.M. Griffiths (Newport), as he was officially listed - was one of the finest referees of his generation. He officiated at the 1950 World Cup in Brazil and was a linesman in the 1954 World Cup final itself, famously denying the Hungarians an equalizer against West Germany.

In the context of Welsh sporting history, Mervyn Griffiths of Newport may only be a footnote, but he's a remarkable footnote nonetheless. He is the only Welshman to have ever appeared in a World Cup final - maybe the only one who ever will - and he neatly links us back to a Newport-Bolton connection. He was also referee that early summer afternoon in 1953 when Bolton were bedazzled by a 38-year-old right winger in one of the most famous FA Cup finals of all time. What does Newport have in common with Bolton? More than you might think.







7

**Danny
Rose**



MEET THE AMBER ARMY

with Rob Dare

Hello and welcome back. I am writing this page the morning after the Stoke match with the memory of Gary Warren's looping header still fresh in my mind and also the no-nonsense approach of Robert Huth! I hope your summer was enjoyable and like me you now have a healthy appetite for Conference Premier football in what promises to be another challenging season ahead for Anthony and his team.

For today's match, I wanted to revisit some of the experiences that you have shared with me in this column over the last two years during which I have featured fellow County supporters from Chepstow to Canada, Malaysia to Malpas and Stafford to Sydney Australia.

Why do we support Newport County? Most of us cite our parents, other close relatives or friends for our first County experience. Indeed most of us seasoned supporters can clearly recall the range of experiences that a trip to Somerton Park could bring, both on and off the pitch. From the comfort of a few pints in Paddy's Bar, the stench of the toilets next to the main grandstand or the banter across the Cromwell end. However, my award for the most unusual explanation must go to Northampton-based Phil Adkins, whose support in the early 1970s stemmed from having the County colours on his own Subbuteo team! He was at pains to point out that his first County (Subbuteo) match saw him victorious over his older brother thanks to a Roddy Jones treble!

Worst/ Best experiences....

Clearly the demise of County in the late 1980s features highly, as do the heady days of promotion in 1980 and our subsequent Welsh Cup triumph and European adventures. Many have also chosen to place on record our High Court victory over the FAW. More recently promotion under Dean Holdsworth is still very popular.

Also the emotion surrounding our last Football League match against Rochdale features and now Canadian-based Dave Smalldon recalls seeing us lose that season at of all places Bolton 6-0 in April 1988 which all but confirmed our relegation out of the Football League. So let's hope we can settle that score today!

Our first game back in Newport at Spyty Park and the subsequent euphoria surrounding the 4-0 over Redditch is also a popular choice –

was that really 17 years ago?

Perhaps the best account though, comes from Newport-based Steve Williams, who, due to adverse weather conditions redirected his friend's stag party from the delights of Ostend to Cambridge and duly saw us beat Cambridge City 6-5 back in November 2000 – good choice Steve!

Funniest County moments

Colin Tebbly recalls experiencing the motorway driving skills of wing-wizard Steve Lowndes en-route to a match at Redditch when the team bus had broken down. He also remembers the transport related chants from The Shed directed to the then BBC Wales pundit and former player Mark Aizlewood who had recently started a driving ban – sounded good on live TV apparently!

Tim Thraves remembers sitting next to legendary comedian Ken Dodd at Exeter City when Dodd shouted to County forward Ralph Hunt "Come on in number 10 your time's up!"

Undying family love also features highly. For example, brothers Mike and Adie Parsons both opting to share their experiences in fitting through the apparently narrow turn styles down at Dorchester – just as well we have a good playing record at the Avenue Stadium!

My favourite County goal

Anything from John Aldridge, Tommy Tynan and more recently Craig Reid features. Others include Sam Foley's excellent lobbed goal at Easteigh. Nathan Davies' goals against Clevedon and Histon, Craig Hughes to win the FAW Cup, Sam O'Sullivan at Weston, Brian Preece against Ruislip Park, Jason Bowen's diving header against Cardiff, Matt Rose against Blackpool, Ken Hollyman against Spurs, Peter Passey versus Northampton and finally a special mention goes to Eddie Woods' for his goal in "The Great Escape" game against Workington in May 1977.

Best County

players
Aside from Tynan (that's me pictured with him) and Aldridge, other very popular players include

Keith Oakes, Alf Sherwood, Joe Bonson, Ralph Hunt, Roddy Jones, Len Weare, Richard Walden and Mark Kendall. More recent players include Nathan Davies, Gary Shephard, Mark Price, Craig Reid, Tony Pennock and Brendan Dowd.

Worst County Players?

Without question both Alan Waddle and Jeff Johnson would top any poll! Other contenders are Rob Duffy, Carl Wilson-Dennis, Shaun Chapple, Leighton James, Mark Draycott, Nathan Bailey and Kevin Stephens.

My favourite County manager

John Relish tops for his utter dedication to the club over a number of decades. Hot on his heels are Billy Lucas, Len Ashurst and most recently Dean Holdsworth. Peter Beadle also gets a good shout from a number of you. Strangely no mention of either Chris Price or John Cornforth though! Let's hope that Mr Hudson also ranks as highly in the years to come!

Favourite away grounds

Bath City's Twerton Park ground features favourably – despite the fact we've never won a match there. Many of the nostalgic old grounds such as Ninian Park, Vetch Field, Fellows Park and Gay Meadow are referenced frequently – as does our former home at Meadow Park.

I am now looking for people to profile for this season. Share your own memories by emailing me at robertdare@aol.com.



Neath Fri 5th Aug

Undy Sat 6th Aug

Kettering Town Sat 13th Aug

ON THE ROAD with Dave Butcher



NEATH

County bring their pre-season build up to a close next weekend. On Friday night (kick off 7.30pm) we travel to The Gnoll to take on arguably the Welsh Premier League's most ambitious club – Neath FC. The Eagles will provide us with a plethora of familiar names, both on and off the pitch. Former County centre back Terry Boyle is manager and he has support from former Spytt men Peter Nicholas (assistant manager), and Tommy Cosh (physio).

On the field, the ex-County contingent is sizeable. Ian Hillier and Craig Hughes were both heroes of the Peter Beadle era, whilst 'Little Jack' Kerry Morgan's never say die attitude made him a tremendously popular performer, particularly during our Championship season. Tigerish midfielder Adie Harris always played well against us for Bath and Weston, although his own spell with us never really got going, whilst Matt Rees had a brief spell with County back in 2004. Neath's most ambitious signing though is undoubtedly Lee Trundle, and "Magic Daps" 18 goals from 29 appearances last season was a decent return. Another ex-Swan, Kristian O'Leary, also joined last summer. Lee Kendall (son of the late County custodian Mark Kendall) is likely to operate between the sticks.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car (SA11 3BU) Distance 48 miles

Head west on M4 before taking the exit at Junction 43. Follow the A465 into the town. At the roundabout, follow the signs for Cimla and Pontrhydyfen. At the second set of traffic lights, go straight ahead until you approach a second roundabout. The ground is directly ahead.

By Train

Newport	17.31	Neath	22.00
Neath	18.30	Newport	23.38
(direct)		(change at Cardiff)	

Fares from £12.80.

UNDY ATHLETIC (NP26 3EN)

County's last pre-season match is against Undy Athletic. Undy will play in the Welsh League Third Division next season, following their promotion as champions of the Gwent County League last season.

Leave Newport by M4 before exiting at Junction 23A, taking 3rd exit at roundabout. Follow the road left until you come to another roundabout, again taking the 3rd exit for the B4245. In a mile turn right for the Causeway, then left at Church Road.



KETTERING TOWN

County kick off their second season in the Blue Square Premier with a visit to Kettering Town. As many of you will no doubt be aware Kettering are planning to play at Nene Park (formerly Rushden's ground) this season, but at the moment official confirmation by the Conference is still pending - and the pre-season build up has still taken place at Rockingham Road. However, the assumption is that the move will be ratified and it will be Nene Park where County will be parading in a couple of weeks' time.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car (NN9 5QF) Distance 156 miles

Take normal route for The Midlands, leaving the M5 at junction 4a for the M42. Leave M42 at Junction 7a to join the M6. Leave the motorway at the M1/M6 intersection and take the A14 towards Kettering. On just passing Kettering take the A6 towards Irthlingborough / Rushden / Bedford, and you will reach the ground on your left.

By Train

Newport	08.39	Wellingborough	17.35 / 18.35
Paddington	10.45	St Pancras	18.25 / 19.29
St Pancras	11.30	Paddington	19.15 / 20.45
Wellingborough	12.19	Newport	21.20 / 22.46

Fares: Standard day return is £64, but GroupSave tickets are available to London St Pancras and tickets bought in advance will be cheaper.

By Coach (Newport County Supporters Club)

Esso Garage	10.15	Adults	£18
Castle Bingo	10.25	Concessions	£16
Royal Oak	10.35	Juniors	£15

Contact Jeff Challingsworth on 01633 270609 or Bob Herrin on 01633 274440. Alternatively, book with Jeff in BarAmber on match days.

Nene Park is out of town, although there are some pubs and food outlets in both Irthlingborough and Higham Ferrers. The two pubs in High Street, Irthlingborough are The Horse Shoe and The Oliver Twist, and both are walkable. This seems the best bet as the stadium bars may not be open – I suggest you ring KTFC on 01536 483028 during the week to confirm details.





CALLING AT COUNTY

The current incarnation of our club hasn't crossed competitive paths with Wanderers, but of course we were managed in our best-ever season by one of their most popular players of recent years in **Dean Holdsworth**. We were grateful for the use of Bolton's state-of-the-art training centre ahead of last November's game at Barrow, thanks to this link. In earlier times, as described elsewhere in this issue, we were in different orbits except for a couple of seasons in the 80s – **Linden Jones** and the late, great **Mark Kendall** are in action here at Somerton Park in 1984-85.



TROTTERS' PRE-SEASON

A squad of 41 players and staff flew to Florida on 11 July, landing in Orlando and moving on to their first friendly in Tampa. This saw a 1-0 defeat, but manager Owen Coyle stressed that at this point in proceedings fitness was the priority over results, with the squad having trained that morning. Then it was back to Orlando for a comfortable 3-1 win including a first goal for **Darren Pratley** since his move from Swansea. The last game of the tour was summed up in Americanese by the blog VitalFootball: "The Bolton Wanderers beat The Houston Dynamo by two strikes to zip in a soccer game at the Robertson Bowl."

The day after returning Wanderers ticked off a routine 4-1 friendly win at Bradford City on Sunday, with goals from **Martin Petrov**, **Darren Pratley**, **Kevin Davies** and **Ivan Klasnic**.

Experienced left-sided midfielder **Matt Taylor** has moved to West Ham, while Wanderers have been linked in the press with **Tyrone Mears** and **Chris Eagles** who both played for Coyle at Burnley and **Aston Villa's Nigel Reo-Coker**, as well as a possible further season-long loan of Chelsea's **Daniel Sturridge**.

BOLTON THROUGH THE AGES

1877: Christ Church FC takes name Bolton Wanderers after using three grounds in four years.

1888: Wanderers are founder members of the Football League, and have since spent more time in England's top flight than out of it.

1920s: The country's top FA Cup team racks up three wins, in 1923, '26 and '29, the first of these the first Wembley final where police horse Billy stars in crowd control as vast numbers gain access.

1939-45: Thirty-two out of 35 pre-war professionals see active service, 15 volunteering in 1939. Club captain Harry Goslin was the sole fatality, in Italy in 1943.

1946: The Burnden Park disaster – 33 dead in crush as an estimated 85,000 pack the ground for a goalless FA Cup quarter-final against Stoke.

1953 and 1958: Famous FA Cup finals – defeat to Stanley Matthews's Blackpool and a win against post-Munich Manchester United, Bolton's most recent major trophy.

1970: Goalkeeper **Eddie Hopkinson** retires after a club record 578 appearances since 1952.

1987: Relegation to the fourth tier for the first time in Wanderers' history, alongside County.



1993: Current manager **Owen Coyle** among playoff final scorers as Wanderers return to the top flight with a Wembley win after trailing Reading.

1997: Reebok Stadium opened by recently appointed Deputy Prime Minister (and Hull City supporter) John Prescott.

2005: Sixth place under **Sam Allardyce** sees Bolton qualify for the UEFA Cup for the first time.

2011: Death of one-club legend **Nat Lofthouse**, Wanderers' record scorer and a hugely respected figure throughout the game.

WANDERERS' KIT DOWN THE YEARS



The 1884 shirt looks like today's King of the Mountains jersey in cycling's Tour de France.



As worn throughout the 1920s by three FA Cup-winning teams – no bringing out a new shirt at regular intervals!



Very little has changed by the time of the 1958 final. The elephant atop the crest was apparently a symbol of quality in the cotton industry which used to dominate Lancashire.

(Images from the wonderful historicalfootballkits.co.uk)

MEET THE MANAGER



Owen Coyle (pictured with Airdrie) was a prolific scorer with unfashionable Scottish clubs **Dumbarton**, **Clydebank** and **Airdrieonians** – helping take the Diamonds into the Cup Winners' Cup in 1993. His first stint with Bolton was

on the pitch and included promotion to the top flight in 1993 with a Wembley playoff final goal in a 4-3 win against Reading. Moving back north, he played among others for **Dundee United**, **Motherwell** and **Dunfermline** before going into coaching and management, first as co-manager with **John Hughes** at **Falkirk**. In a stint with the new **Airdrie United** he was assistant to **Sandy Stewart**, who is now his no.2 at Bolton. Leaving **St Johnstone** in 2007, he immediately made a big impact at **Burnley** and took them into the top flight for the first time in a generation via a Wembley playoff win over Sheffield United. Owen succeeded **Gary Megson** at the Reebok in January last year and has been credited with gradually shifting to a more passing game. He is widely tipped to manage an even bigger club in due course and comes across in TV interviews as particularly astute and generous to opponents.

ABOUT BOLTON



Where is it? Ten miles northwest of Manchester, with a population roughly the size of Newport's in the town itself and double that in the whole borough. Possibly heading in the opposite direction from Blackburn.

History: Flemish weavers launched the cloth trade in the 14th century. Bolton was a Puritan stronghold in the Civil War. The magnificent town hall was opened by Prince Albert in 1873.



Famous offspring: Footballers apart, Bolton's best known current sons are boxer **Amir Khan** and comedian **Peter Kay**. "Jaws" actor **Robert Shaw** was born there, as was DJ **Sara Cox**. Steeplejack **Fred Dibnah** brought the local accent national TV exposure, and luminaries educated in the town include film director **Danny Boyle** and actor **Sir Ian McKellen**. The brilliant actress **Maxine Peake** is from Westhoughton within the borough.



GOALKEEPERS

The £100,000 Bolton paid **VPS Vaasa** in 1997 for **JUSSI JAASKELAINEN** might just have generated the best return on a fee any premiership club has ever had. Jussi now has 56 Finnish caps and 509 club appearances under his belt, seventh on Wanderers' all-time list. "Premiership legend" gets overused, but in this case it's bang on the nail. **ADAM BOGDAN** has been Jussi's understudy since **Ali-Al Habsi's** move to **Wigan** a year ago and won his first full cap for Hungary last month. Youth product **ROB LAINTON** is third choice.



DEFENDERS

GRETAR RAFN STEINSSON is treading a path for Icelandic defenders started by **Gudni Bergsson** in the 1990s. He signed from Dutch club **Alkmaar** three years ago and has now topped 100 appearances, plus almost 40 caps.



PAUL ROBINSON began with **Watford** and joined Wanderers from **West Brom** in 2009. He started all but three premiership games last season. Still only 25, **GARY CAHILL** (left) was on the fringe of the England team for some time before being capped a year ago, and many were surprised when his first club **Aston Villa** let him leave for Bolton in January 2008. **ZAT KNIGHT**, another

former Villa player, started out with **Fulham** and has two England caps. **DAVID WHEATER**, capped at every level from U/16 to U/21 and on the bench for the senior team, was an obvious target for a top-flight club after home-town **Middlesbrough** failed to show signs of bouncing back. David joined during the January window. **MARK CONNOLLY** had a first ever start alongside him in last weekend's friendly at **Bradford**. Welsh cap **SAM RICKETTS**, once with **Swansea City**, is not expected back from an achilles injury until autumn.

MIDFIELD

FABRICE MUAMBA, 23, is an automatic choice who began his career in **Arsenal's** famed youth programme and joined Wanderers for a hefty fee from **Birmingham City**. Fabrice also has a full set of England caps up to U/21. Summer arrival **DARREN PRATLEY** signed off from **Swansea City** with a goal from half-way in their playoff semi, setting up a Wembley final win. Speedy Bulgarian **MARTIN PETROV** (right) joined on a "Bosman" from **Manchester City** a year ago and his CV includes 77 caps, **Atletico Madrid** and **Wolfsburg**. **STUART HOLDEN**, 26 next week, moved from **Aberdeen** to **Texas** at the age of 10. His honours include membership of the US Olympic and World Cup squads. Stuart, who joined from **Houston** in the MLS, was last season's Player of the Year. **CHUNG-YONG LEE** was the previous winner and was also at the 2010 World Cup finals, scoring twice for



South Korea. Jamaican **RICARDO GARDNER**, at home anywhere on the left, reportedly turned down a move to **West Ham** recently to add to his 340-game tally at the Reebok. He joined from Kingston's **Harbour View** after being spotted at the 1998 World Cup. **SEAN DAVIS**, late of **Fulham**, **Spurs** and **Portsmouth**, is hoping to put a series of knee injuries behind him after most of two seasons out. **MARK DAVIES**, signed from **Wolves**, is so highly rated he is contracted for four more years at the Reebok.

STRIKERS

Veteran **ROBBIE BLAKE** is with his seventh club since starting at **Darlington** and was instrumental in getting both **Bradford City** and **Burnley** into the top flight, but appeared only off the bench last season. **KEVIN DAVIES** (right), amazingly not capped by England until last season, first came to prominence when minnows **Chesterfield** reached the FA Cup semis in 1997. His major moves included a record transfer fee when joining **Blackburn Rovers** from **Southampton** and he has netted 61 times in 285 games for Bolton. Teenager **TOM EAVES** is hoping to break through after signing from **Oldham** a year ago. Another youngster hoping to get a regular slot is **TEMITOPE OBADEYI**, out on loan last season to **Shrewsbury**. **IVAN KLASNIC**, 11 goals for Croatia, spent eight seasons with **Werder Bremen** and two with **Nantes**. He defined the term "impact sub" last season – no starts but coming on in 22 games. He has a unique claim to fame as the first player ever to appear at major tournament, Euro 08 after a kidney transplant. Not just one, but two. Respect.



FIXTURES 2011/12

- Saturday, 13 August 2011 - Kettering v Newport County, 15:00
Tuesday, 16 August 2011 - Newport County v Hayes & Yeading, 19:45
Saturday, 20 August 2011 - Newport County v Grimsby, 15:00
 Tuesday, 23 August 2011 - Ebbsfleet United v Newport County, 19:45
 Saturday, 27 August 2011 - AFC Telford v Newport County, 15:00
Monday, 29 August 2011 - Newport County v Kidderminster, 15:00
Saturday, 3 September 2011 - Newport County v Cambridge Utd, 15:00
 Saturday, 10 September 2011 - Mansfield v Newport County, 15:00
 Saturday, 17 September 2011 - Braintree Town v Newport County, 15:00
Tuesday, 20 September 2011 - Newport County v Stockport, 19:45
Saturday, 24 September 2011 - Newport County v Barrow, 15:00
 Tuesday, 27 September 2011 - Forest Green v Newport County, 19:45
 Saturday, 1 October 2011 - Darlington v Newport County, 15:00
Saturday, 8 October 2011 - Newport County v Southport, 15:00
 Tuesday, 11 October 2011 - Fleetwood Town v Newport County, 19:45
Saturday, 15 October 2011 - Newport County v Tamworth, 15:00
Tuesday, 18 October 2011 - Newport County v Kettering, 19:45
 Saturday, 22 October 2011 - Wrexham v Newport County, 15:00
Saturday, 5 November 2011 - Newport County v Ebbsfleet United, 15:00
 Saturday, 19 November 2011 - Grimsby v Newport County, 15:00
Saturday, 26 November 2011 - Newport County v Luton, 15:00
 Tuesday, 29 November 2011 - Hayes & Yeading v Newport County, 19:45
Saturday, 3 December 2011 - Newport County v Lincoln City, 15:00
 Tuesday, 6 December 2011 - Alfreton Town v Newport County, 19:45
Saturday, 17 December 2011 - Newport County v Fleetwood Town, 15:00
 Monday, 26 December 2011 - Bath City v Newport County, 15:00
Sunday, 1 January 2012 - Newport County v Bath City, 15:00
 Saturday, 7 January 2012 - Luton v Newport County, 15:00
Saturday, 21 January 2012 - Newport County v Forest Green, 15:00
 Tuesday, 24 January 2012 - Cambridge Utd v Newport County, 19:45
 Saturday, 28 January 2012 - Gateshead v Newport County, 15:00
Saturday, 4 February 2012 - Newport County v Braintree Town, 15:00
 Saturday, 11 February 2012 - Stockport v Newport County, 15:00
Saturday, 18 February 2012 - Newport County v Mansfield, 15:00
 Tuesday, 21 February 2012 - Tamworth v Newport County, 19:45
Saturday, 25 February 2012 - Newport County v York, 15:00
 Saturday, 3 March 2012 - Southport v Newport County, 15:00
Saturday, 10 March 2012 - Newport County v Darlington, 15:00
Saturday, 17 March 2012 - Newport County v Wrexham, 15:00
 Saturday, 24 March 2012 - Lincoln City v Newport County, 15:00
Saturday, 31 March 2012 - Newport County v Gateshead, 15:00
Saturday, 7 April 2012 - Newport County v AFC Telford, 15:00
 Monday, 9 April 2012 - Kidderminster v Newport County, 15:00
 Saturday, 14 April 2012 - York v Newport County, 15:00
Saturday, 21 April 2012 - Newport County v Alfreton Town, 15:00
 Saturday, 28 April 2012 - Barrow v Newport County, 15:00

Saturday 30th July 2011

Acorn®